



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3

DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C, J

CJCSI 3205.01A

11 April 2003

JOINT COMBAT CAMERA

References:

- a. DOD Directive 5040.4, 13 August 2002, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program"
- b. CJCSM 3122.01, 14 July 2000, "Joint Operational Planning And Execution System"
- c. CJCSM 3122.03 Series, "Joint Operations Planning and Execution System Volume II (Planning Formats and Guidance)"

1. Purpose. This instruction establishes policy and defines procedures for tasking and using combat camera (COMCAM) assets.

2. Cancellation. CJCSI 3205.01, 21 September 1998, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program," is canceled.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all consumers of COMCAM products and services, and all those who task and employ COMCAM assets.

4. Policy

a. The mission of COMCAM is to provide the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Military Departments (MILDEPs), the combatant commands, and the joint task forces (JTFs) with a directed imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, and joint exercises. This instruction provides direction on execution oversight of COMCAM mission requirements.

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b. COMCAM imagery is a fundamental tool of decision makers and commanders that provides essential battlefield information. COMCAM imagery is to be shared, as required, to simultaneously support operational and planning requirements of OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, MILDEPs, combatant commands, Defense agencies, and other DOD components.

c. COMCAM is an essential battlefield information resource that supports strategic, tactical, and operational mission objectives. It is a deployable force multiplier that provides commanders with combat trained documentation teams that are primary suppliers of operational imagery to support battlefield information superiority.

d. Commanders involved in wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises and other events involving DOD components having significant national interest will plan for, task, sustain, and employ COMCAM forces. Commanders will also expeditiously process and forward COMCAM imagery with captions to the Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC).

e. JCCC is the central DOD repository of COMCAM imagery and will receive, process, and distribute COMCAM products as needed.

5. Definitions

a. Combat camera is defined in Joint Pub 1-02 as: "Visual information documentation covering air, sea, and ground actions of armed forces in combat and combat support operations, and in related peacetime training activities such as exercises, war games, and operations."

b. Combat camera includes the acquisition and utilization of still and motion imagery in support of combat, information, humanitarian, special force, intelligence, reconnaissance, engineering, legal, public affairs, and other operations involving the Military Services. COMCAM imagery is often the only visual record of an operation and is of immeasurable value to decision makers in the OSD, Joint Staff, and combatant commands. Although the primary use of COMCAM imagery is as an operational decision-making tool, COMCAM imagery is also significant for public affairs and public diplomacy purposes. Operational COMCAM requirements should not be confused with public affairs or press media pool requirements.

6. Responsibilities

a. Joint Staff

(1) All directorates preparing implementing orders are required to ensure that they comply with the joint operation planning and execution system Volumes I and II (references b. and c.) and DODD 5040.4. The Joint Staff is to plan for and task COMCAM assets per the combatant commander's requirements for wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises, and other events involving DOD components.

(2) All orders issued by the Joint Staff will contain COMCAM coordination and documentation sections. COMCAM-specific tasking will be coordinated with the Defense Visual Information Directorate, OSD, for technical feasibility and supportability.

(3) Promulgate joint COMCAM doctrine.

b. Operations Directorate, Joint Staff

(1) The Director for Operations (J-3) is the Joint Staff cognizant authority for COMCAM products involving operations and force deployments.

(2) The J-3 will designate a responsible individual by letter from the Deputy Director for Information Operations (DDIO) staff as the point of contact (POC) for COMCAM coordination and action involving visual information requests, products, and services.

(3) DDIO POC will:

(a) Plan for and coordinate integration of COMCAM forces into operations and identify imagery requirements for the Joint Staff.

(b) Coordinate with the combatant commands, CJCS Public Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs to ensure OSD, and joint requirements are included in implementing orders. Emerging imagery requirements will be passed through the combatant commands to the JTF level for assignment to COMCAM teams.

(c) Provide assistance in constructing appropriately capable, task organized, COMCAM team(s) from Service-specific assets for use in

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a particular theater or crisis. The Defense Visual Information, Joint Combat Camera Program Manager, is also available for assistance.

(d) Act as the CJCS representative on the Joint Combat Camera Planning Group (JCCPG).

c. Commanders of the Combatant Commands

(1) Will ensure that except when it would delay forwarding, review of unclassified COMCAM imagery for possible public release will be accomplished in theater, at the lowest practical level.

(2) Identify a COMCAM POC in the J-39 (Information Operations) directorate to serve as Joint Staff liaison and Joint Combat Camera Team tasking authority when teams are deployed supporting the combatant commander's or as part of an established in-theater JTF. The POC will provide guidance and tasking direction to ensure COMCAM teams provide adequate coverage of critical events, and to maximize the teams' responsiveness. Rapid development and dissemination of COMCAM products that support strategic and operational IO objectives is the desired end state.

(3) Ensure that the Service components establish COMCAM points of contact in their Information Operations directorates.

7. Summary of Changes


a. This version has been changed to mirror the recently updated CJCSI 5040.4 "Joint Combat Camera Program."

b. The most significant change is the specific identification of the Deputy Director for Information Operations (DDIO) staff as the point of contact (POC) for COMCAM coordination and action on the Joint Staff, and the J-39 at the combatant commands.

8. Releasability. This instruction is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. DOD components (to include the combatant commands), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this instruction through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Home Page--<http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine>. Copies are also available through the Government Printing Office on the Joint Electronic Library CD-ROM.

9. Effective Date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



JAMES A. HAWKINS
Major General, USAF
Vice Director, Joint Staff

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